

Malden School Committee
Budget Subcommittee
Monday, February 12, 2024
6:30 pm EST

Location: Zoom Remote Participation

Attendees: Ms. Jennifer Spadafora (Chair), Mr. Michael Drummey, Ms. Elizabeth Hortie, Mr. Joseph Gray
Superintendent Noriega-Murphy; Finance Director Mertz

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm EST. Ms. Spadafora called the roll.

Mr. Drummey - Present
Mr. Gray - Present
Ms. Hortie - Present
Mr. McCarthy - Absent
Ms. Spadafora - Present

Agenda

1. **FY 2025 Budget Discussion**

Ms. Spadafora started the meeting informing the members that she wanted to meet earlier and more frequent due to the finance numbers that came out of the Governor's preliminary budget. As she discussed in the February 5th School Committee meeting, the total increase in state aid was approx.. \$600,000. The increase in local contribution is approx.. \$3M. Ms. Spadafora then turned the meeting over to Ms. Mertz who presented a high-level overview on the budget process and the current financial aid in comparison to districts similar to Malden. Ms. Mertz highlighted the increase in costs for contractual obligations, special education, and curriculum. Ms. Spadafora inquired if we were receiving full reimbursement for students that attend charter schools at the per pupil cost. Ms. Mertz said she would get that information. Ms. Drummey inquired if ELC student enrollment was calculated into our enrollment numbers. Ms. Mertz responded that it was at 0.5. Ms. Hortie asked if Ms. Mertz could explain more of the funding formula and why Malden is seen as having more money. Ms. Mertz responded that she didn't have the formula in front of her however, the formula considers median income valuation among many other items. Ms. Spadafora noted that unit A salary increases are coming in at approx.. \$3M and Out of District costs are \$2M above last year. These two items are well above the total aid being given to Malden for FY2025. Ms. Spadafora wrapped up with asking the Superintendent to reiterate to principals when completing their school requests to keep these requests to "needs" vs. "wants.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Mr. Gray. Seconded by Ms. Hortie. Ms. Spadafora called the roll.

Dr. Drummey – Yes
Mr. Gray - Yes
Ms. Hortie - Yes
Ms. Spadafora – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm EST